

Pesticide Safety *Information* Series A

Worker Health and Safety Branch

A-8

HAZARD COMMUNICATION FOR EMPLOYEES HANDLING PESTICIDES IN AGRICULTURAL SETTINGS*

* **Employers:** Fill in the blank lines on pages 1 & 4 and display this handout at the employee's work site.

General:

This handout tells you about your right to know the pesticide dangers at work and about the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) rules on "Hazard Communication" in California. "Hazard Communication" is a program to make sure you know about the dangers at work, how to protect yourself from those dangers, and where to get information about the dangers and safety procedures.

Pesticides are chemicals commonly used to kill insects, weeds, germs and plant diseases on farms, as well as, in non-agricultural settings (landscape, parks, restaurants or hospitals). Fertilizers are not pesticides.

The label on the pesticide, training, and other forms of warning tell you of the dangers. Your boss must know and help you learn (in a language you understand), about each pesticide you will use, and how to protect yourself and safely use them.

Your Rights:

You must be told about the dangers where you work. You must be trained to deal with those dangers. As an employee, you have the following rights:

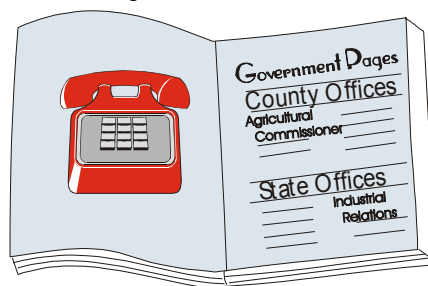
- You have the right to know what pesticides have been used.
- You have the right to see a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for each pesticide used. The MSDS tells you about the pesticide, its dangers and the protections needed.
- You have the right to file complaints about the dangers at work, without being punished or fired. Your boss will not be told who filed the complaint.
- Your boss must plan ahead for medical care and make sure you are taken to the doctor if it is likely pesticides have made you sick or hurt at work.

Medical care is available for you at:

- If you get sick or hurt because of your job, you have the right to file for worker's compensation. Workers' compensation will pay for your medical costs, and in some cases, lost pay.

Your boss must explain your rights to you. If you need more help in understanding your rights, you should contact your local county agricultural commissioner's office, the local legal aid or worker's rights office, your union or DPR at: Anaheim (714) 279-7690; Fresno (559) 445-5401 or Sacramento (916) 372-6892.

Pesticides are only one kind of danger at your work. Complaints about pesticide dangers should be filed with the county agricultural commissioner. Complaints about other dangers should be filed with the California

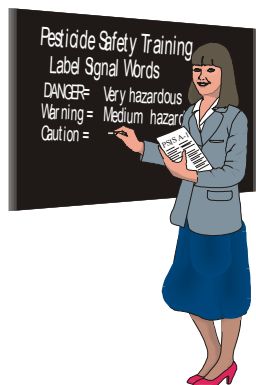


Department of Industrial Relations-Cal/OSHA office. The telephone numbers for both agencies are in the government pages of the telephone book.

Training/Education:

Training is one important way to learn about pesticide dangers and how to protect yourself from the pesticide. If you work with pesticides, you must

receive training about using each pesticide. Each pesticide has different dangers and requires different protections. You must be given training in a manner that you understand before you begin to work with pesticides and anytime you work with new pesticides. You must also be given training each year to help remind you how to handle pesticides safely. You must know the immediate and long-term dangers the pesticide can cause and know how to safely use each pesticide you will work with. Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) handout A-1 tells you everything that must be part of your pesticide training. Extra training is needed if you use respirators (see PSIS handout A-5). All information that was part of your training must also be written down and you must sign the paper to show you have been trained, but only when you have finished the training.



You must be told where and how you can see the work-related documents and records your boss must keep (see Table 3). You do not need to ask your boss' permission to look at these records.

Hazard Identification:

The pesticide label tells you what chemicals are in the container, information about the pesticide, first aid, warnings, protective equipment needed and directions for application. Other chemicals, called "inert ingredients", are not usually written on the label. These other ingredients can also make you sick. In case of an emergency, doctors who need to know the names of the ingredients to treat you can usually get that information from the company who makes the pesticide or from DPR.

Before a pesticide can be used in California, tests are done to find out about its harmful effects. The pesticide label gives you information on the dangers of using pesticides. All pesticides are poisonous. If you are exposed, they can harm you or make you sick.

- "DANGER" means the pesticide is very poisonous; touching or breathing very small amounts can cause serious harm or sickness.

- "WARNING" means moderate danger; it takes exposure to more pesticide to make you sick or hurt.
- "CAUTION" means the danger is low; it can still cause harm or sickness, but requires contact to much more pesticide.

In addition, the label also tells you about more specific dangers and the safety measures you need to follow. You must know and follow all label instructions.

- If the pesticide causes serious eye or skin injury, the label will say something like "Corrosive, causes eye and skin damage."
- If a small amount of the pesticide can make you very sick, the label will have a skull-and-crossbones symbol and the word "POISON."
- Words like "fatal" or "may be fatal if swallowed, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin" also mean the pesticide can make you very sick or cause death if you are exposed to too much.
- Some pesticide labels tell you about other health problems such as cancer or birth defects.



You cannot rely only on the pesticide label to tell you of the dangers. Your boss must have a copy of all MSDSs for the pesticide(s) used and must tell you where you can go to look at it. Other sources of safety information include industry trade bulletins, government hazard alerts, and PSIS handouts like this one.

Labels And Other Warnings:

In addition to training, there are many other ways that information is given to you (see Table 3). The pesticide label gives instructions on safely using the pesticide. The label must be at the work site when you mix or apply a pesticide. Normally, this is the label on the pesticide container. It can also be on a "product bulletin" or other additional labeling. If a service container (any container that is not the original container from the factory) is used, your boss must have the complete pesticide label at your work site. Service containers must be labeled to identify the pesticide, its "Signal Word," and who is responsible for the container and the pesticide.

Pesticide Name	
EPA Registration No.	
Active Ingredients	xx%
Inert Ingredients	x%
DANGER	
Statement of Practical Treatment	
Precautionary Statements	
Hazards to Humans	
Personal Protective Equipment	
Environmental Hazards	
Agricultural Use Requirements	
Directions for Use	

When possible, keep pesticides in their original container with the original label. Never use food, drink, or household product containers for pesticides.

Most places where pesticides are stored must be locked and posted with warning signs. The signs must be in a language you understand. More information on pesticide storage, transportation, and disposal is found in PSIS handout A-2.

If a pesticide is sprayed on a field you might enter, the farmer must tell you the pesticide name, how to protect yourself and how long to stay out of the sprayed field, (restricted entry interval, REI). Posting signs around treated fields is one way to do this. If the label or regulations do not require signs, you may be told orally. Never go into a field if signs or your boss tell you to stay out.

In 1986, a law called the *Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986* (Proposition 65) was

passed. Proposition 65 requires California to make a list of chemicals that can cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm. The Proposition 65 list contains many chemicals, including dyes, solvents, pesticides, drugs, and food additives. If a pesticide is on the Proposition 65 list, your boss must warn you if you might be exposed to enough pesticide to result in a significant risk of cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm. Your boss may also choose to warn you if a pesticide on the Proposition 65 list has been sprayed, even if health problems are not likely. Your boss is required to keep specific information on each pesticide application, even those not on the Proposition 65 list. You have a right to look at this information; in your training, you must be told where you can find it. If you are unsure of the location, ask your boss. Table 1 lists pesticides that are on the Proposition 65 list and might be used in California.

Table 1
CURRENTLY REGISTERED PESTICIDES ON THE PROPOSITION 65 LIST

PESTICIDES KNOWN TO THE STATE TO CAUSE CANCER

Alachlor	<i>p</i> -Dichlorobenzene	Lindane	<i>o</i> -Phenylphenol Propargite
Arsenic acid	1,3-Dichloropropene	Mancozeb	Pronamide (propyzamide)
Arsenic pentoxide	Diethyl phthalate	Maneb	Propylene oxide
Arsenic trioxide	Dipropyl	Metam sodium	Silica aerogel
Cacodylic acid	Isocinchomeronate	Metiram	Sodium dichromate
Captan	Diuron	Oxadiazon	Thiodicarb
Chlorothalonil	Ethoprop	Oxythioquinox	Vinclozolin
Chromic acid	Ethylene oxide	Pentachlorophenol	
Creosote	Fenoxycarb	<i>o</i> -Phenylphenate, sodium	
Daminozide	Folpet	(<i>o</i> -phenylphenol, sodium)	
DDVP (dichlorvos)	Formaldehyde (gas)		
	Iprodione		

PESTICIDES KNOWN TO THE STATE TO CAUSE BIRTH DEFECTS OR REPRODUCTIVE HARM

Amitraz	Disodium cyanodithioimido carbonate	Methyl bromide (as a structural fumigant)	Resmethrin
Arsenic, pentoxide			Sodium dimethyldithiocarbamate
Arsenic, trioxide	EPTC (ethyl dipropylthiocarbamate)	Myclobutanil	Sodium fluoroacetate (1080)
Benomyl		Nabam	Streptomycin sulfate
Bromacil, lithium salt	Ethylene oxide	Nicotine	Thiophanate methyl
Bromoxynil octanoate	Fenoxaprop ethyl	Nitrapyrin	Triadimefon
Chlorsulfuron	Fluazifop butyl	Oxadiazon	Tributyltin methacrylate
Cyanazine	Fluvalinate	Oxydemeton-methyl	Triforine
Cycloate	Hydramethylnon	Oxythioquinox	Vinclozolin
2,4-D butyric acid (2,4-DB)	Linuron	Potassium dimethyldithiocarbamate	Warfarin
Diclofop methyl	Metam sodium	Propargite	
	Metiram		

Exposure Monitoring:

If you "regularly handle" organophosphate or carbamate pesticides (see Table 2 for examples of these pesticides) with "DANGER" or "WARNING" on the label, you must be under a doctor's care and have your blood tested to detect the effects of pesticide exposure. (Regularly handle means mixing or applying the pesticide for more than 6 days in any 30-day period.) These rules are covered in PSIS handout A-11.

This workplace: DOES _____
DOES NOT _____
use organophosphates or carbamates on agricultural crops.

If organophosphates or carbamates are used on crops, they: ARE _____
ARE NOT _____
handled by any person more than six days in any 30-day period.

If they are "regularly handled" by anyone, the physician providing medical care and blood test is:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____.

Table 2**Commonly Used Organophosphates and Carbamates**

Organophosphates:	Carbamates:
Acephate	Aldicarb
Azinphos-methyl	Carbaryl
Chlorpyrifos	Carbofuran
DEF	Methomyl
Diazinon	Oxamyl
Dimethoate	Thiodicarb
Malathion	
Methamidophos	
Methidathion	
Methyl Parathion	
Naled	
Phosmet	

Records:

There are many records your boss must keep and make available for to you read (see Table 3). These papers can be grouped into three general kinds: training, exposure, and medical care.

Training. Your boss must keep a written record of the training provided to you.

Exposure. Your boss must also keep a record of the pesticides used where you work. If organophosphates or carbamates are used as described under "Exposure Monitoring," the pesticide use record must include the pesticide name, the date applied, and name of the applicator.

Medical Care. If organophosphate and carbamate pesticides are used on a regular basis, your boss must keep records about your medical care and what was done if the blood tests show you were exposed to too much pesticide.

The required records are kept at the following location:

Information on first aid is available in PSIS A-4.

Other PSIS handouts mentioned in this document should be part of your training. They are free and are available from your boss and the local agricultural commissioner's office.

This leaflet helps you to learn about pesticide regulations. It is not a legal document. The legal reference can be found in the California Code of Regulations, Title 3. The words "must" and "should" used in the text are **not** the same. The word "must" means the action is required and comes from California regulations. The word "should" indicates extra safety practices that are recommended to help reduce pesticide exposure.

Table 3
SUMMARY OF “HAZARD COMMUNICATION” RECORDS

Information	Kept for:	Location	Section ¹
Training papers	2 years	Boss' office site	6724(e)
Written training program	2 years	Boss' office site	6724(a)
Respirator program procedures	During use	Boss' office site	6738(h)
Medical evaluation (respirator use)	During use	Boss' office site	6738(h)
Accident response plan (fumigants)	During use	Work site	6780(d)
Pesticide label	During use	Work site	6602
Pesticide Safety Information Series	2 years	Boss' office site	6723(b)
Material Safety Data Sheet	2 years	Boss' office site	6723(b)
Treatment notification method ²	2 years	Boss' office site	6619
Field posting ²	During use	Work site	6776
Storage area posting ³	During use	Storage area	6674
Employee exposure records ⁴	3 years	Boss' office site	6728(a)
Identity of medical supervisor notice ⁴	During use	Boss' office site	6728(a)
Employer/medical supervisor agreement ⁴	3 years	Boss' office site	6728(b)
Medical supervisor recommendations ⁴	3 years	Boss' office site	6728(c)
Cholinesterase blood test results ⁴	3 years	Boss' office site	6728(c)
Employee work practice review ⁴	3 years	Boss' office site	6728(d)
Emergency medical care notice	During use	Work site	6726
Pesticide use records	2 years	Boss' office site	6624

¹ Rules are found in the California Code of Regulations, Title 3 and the section listed in this column

² Required for growing of an agricultural crop only

³ Required only for pesticides with the Signal word "DANGER" or "WARNING"

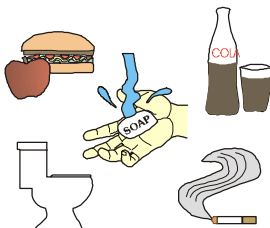
⁴ Required only for organophosphate and carbamate pesticides with the signal word "DANGER" or "WARNING", used for growing an agricultural crop

Your county agricultural commissioner can provide additional information about these requirements.

SAFETY TIPS



- Protect your skin
- Wear clothes with long sleeves and long pants, shoes or boots, socks, a hat and/or scarf and gloves
- Make sure they are clean and without holes



- Always wash your hands before eating, drinking, smoking, chewing gum or going to the bathroom
- Do not cook food with wood found in the field



- Take a bath or shower as soon as you get home from work
- Wash with soap & water and use shampoo on your hair
- Put on clean clothes



- Pesticides get on work clothes and then on your skin
- Wash work clothes before wearing them again
- Wash work clothes separate from other clothes



- Never put pesticides in food containers
- Do not take farm pesticides or their containers home
- Keep children away from pesticides

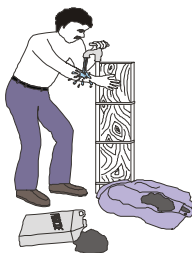
ILLNESS/INJURY



- Pesticides get on your skin and clothes when you touch sprayed plants, soil, irrigation water or are exposed to spray drift
- They can move from your clothes and onto your skin
- Some pesticides easily go through your skin and can make you sick.

- Tell the boss if you are sick or hurt at work
- If the illness/injury is work-related, your employer will pay for all medical care of that illness
- If the condition is work-related you may be paid for your time off work while sick or hurt

FIRST AID



- Wash immediately with the closest clean water if pesticides are spilled or sprayed on your clothes or skin
- Change into clean clothes
- Tell your boss about the spill after washing



- Wash if your eyes or skin begin to itch or burn
- Use lots of water
- Tell your boss you should go to a doctor



- If you feel sick at work (headache, stomach ache, vomiting, dizzy) tell your boss
- He or she can make sure you are taken to a doctor

- Have someone else drive you to the doctor if you are sick or injured